

Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 ABF-01 FS-01 /019 R

DRAFTED BY SMI/OIP:RTCONROY:BS

APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:WJWALSH

SMI/OIP:KBSCHMERTZ

ARCHIVES:AMEISEL

SMI/OGC:AULLBEG

EUR/EE:DMILLER (INFO)

----- 123626

P 122325Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI,SCUL,PL

SUBJECT:

-- SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - ANIMATED FILM PROJECT,
-- "CONQUERING THE PAPER MOUNTAIN" FOR NATIONAL
-- ARCHIVES - GRANT FR5-46237

REFERENCE: A-4695 OF JULY 10, 1975

1. NATIONAL ARCHIVES RECEIVED WORK PRINT OF SUBJECT FILM TWO MONTHS LATE ON FEBRUARY 25, BUT WAS DISMAYED TO FIND THAT IS COMPLETELY UNSATISFACTORY FROM BOTH TECHNICAL AND CONCEPTUAL POINTS OF VIEW. MANY OF DIFFICULTIES DOUBTLESS STEM FROM ILLNESS OF DIRECTOR ASSIGNED BY FILM POLSKI TO PROJECT, BOGDAN NOVICI, WHO WAS ABSENT DURING TWO CRITICAL

MONTHS OF ANIMATION PROCESS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT IN SPITE OF EXTENSIVE VISITS TO FILM POLSKI BY ARCHIVES STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL ANIMATOR CONSULTANT WHO DESIGNED STORY BOARD; PROVISION OF CAREFULLY DEVELOPED

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SCRIPT AND STORY BOARD; AND METICULOUSLY TIMED SOUND TRACK;

FILM POLSKI HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD WHAT ARCHIVES HAS IN MIND.
EXAMPLES: FILM WAS TO HAVE BEEN TEN AND ONE HALF MINUTES
LONG AND SOUND TRACK TIMED FOR THIS, BUT WORK PRINT COMES

TO EIGHTEEN MINUTES AND SHOWS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS
BEEN POORLY CUT FROM MUCH LONGER MATERIAL, RESULTING IN
FIGURES THAT "JUMP." CAREFULLY WORKED OUT TRANSITIONS
WERE IGNORED. DRAWINGS ARE SOMETIMES POORLY DONE
AND BADLY COORDINATED. COLORS ARE VERY MUDDY.

2. ARCHIVES DOES NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO BRING FILM
TO STANDARDS NEEDED FOR LONG TERM USE, PARTICULARLY
SINCE STAFF CANNOT SPARE TIME FOR MORE CLOSE WORK WITH
FILM POLSKI IN POLAND, PREVIOUS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SO
UNSUCCESSFUL, AND ARCHIVES WOULD BE UNABLE TO GIVE
AT LONG DISTANCE THE CLOSE SUPERVISION THE PROJECT NEEDS.
CONSEQUENTLY, ARCHIVES RELUCTANTLY FORCED TO INVOKE
CANCELLATION CLAUSE OF CONTRACT AND PAY FOR WORK
COMPLETED. FULL PRICE WAS TO HAVE BEEN 700,000 ZLOTYS
PLUS 5,000 DOLLARS CALCULATED AT 150,000 /LOTYS FOR TOTAL
850,000 ZLOTYS. ARCHIVES ESTIMATES THAT IF WORK THUS
FAR HAD BEEN DONE ACCEPTABLY, FILM WOULD BE ABOUT 75
PERCENT COMPLETE. PAYMENT OFFERED IS SLIGHTLY OVER 82
PERCENT, OR 700,000 ZLOTYS.

3. ARCHIVES PLANS REMAKE FILM IN UNITED STATES WHERE IT
CAN EXERT CLOSE SUPERVISION. HOWEVER, MUST SAVE THE
5,000 DOLLARS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO FILM POLSKI PROJECT
AND MUST HAVE ALL DRAWINGS AND RELATED MATERIALS THAT HAVE
BEEN EXECUTED BY FILM POLSKI UNDER CONTRACT. THESE
DRAWINGS EXPECTED TO BE SALVAGEABLE TO EXTENT OF SAVING
10,000 DOLLARS OF U.S. PRODUCTION COSTS. EMBASSY
ASSISTANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN ARRANGING FOR THIS
MATERIAL (DESCRIBED IN FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO FILM POLSKI)
TO BE SENT TO ALBERT MEISEL, ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST FOR
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.
SHIPMENT SHOULD BE AIR FREIGHT COLLECT FOR CONVERSION
BY NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO GOVERNMENT BILL OF LADING.

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4. PROVIDING NO OBJECTION PERCEIVED, EMBASSY REQUESTED
TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ALBERT MEISEL TO
WLADYSLAW BRAUN, ASSISTANT MANAGER, FILM POLSKI: (END
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE; BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED): REGRET
DELAY IN RESPONSE BUT DID NOT RECEIVE PAPER MOUNTAIN
UNTIL FEBRUARY 25. REACTION GENERALLY FAVORABLE BUT
AGREEMENT HERE THAT PRESENT VERSION OVERLONG, NEEDS
CONSIDERABLE WORK. AT SAME TIME, HAVE URGENT NEED OF

FINISHED PRODUCT FOR SHORTLY UPCOMING SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM.; FOR THESE REASONS, COUPLED WITH INABILITY ALFRED HILLMAN, MICHAL CARR OR MYSELF TO TRAVEL WARSAW COMING MONTH, REGRETFULLY SEE NO ALTERNATIVE AT THIS POINT BUT TO COMPLETE FILM OURSELVES, INVOKE CANCELLATION

CLAUSE, SECTION 8, OF CONTRACT. NO ONE'S FAULT BUT NOVICKI ILLNESS SIMPLY PUT US TOO FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE TO PROCEED OTHERWISE. ACCORDING TO THIS NEW PLAN, PROPOSE OURSELVES TO DO NECESSARY EDITING, ALTERNATIONS, CORRECT TITLES, COMPOSE MUSIC TRACK, DO FINAL MIX, CONFORM NEGATIVE TO WORK PRINT, DO OPTICAL TRANSFER OF MIXED TRACK AND MAKE ANSWER PRINT. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE WORK, NEED SOONEST FROM YOU VIA AIR EXPRESS OUR EXPENSE OUR ORIGINAL STORY BOARD, RESEARCH MATERIALS AND SOUND ELEMENTS, AS WELL AS ART, LAYOUTS, TRACINGS AND CAMERA LOGS YOU HAVE PRODUCED. TO DATE YOU HAVE RECEIVED 280,000 ZLOTYS. WE PROPOSE TO PAY YOU ADDITIONAL 420,000 ZLOTYS UPON RECEIPT FROM YOU OF ABOVE MATERIALS. 5,000 DOLLARS IN CONTRACT WILL NEED TO BE APPLIED TO COMPLETION OF WORK HERE. HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THIS SETTLEMENT IS EQUABLE IN VIEW OF WORK THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE. CERTAIN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND NEED FOR PROCEEDING THIS MANNER. APPRECIATE ALL YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE DONE. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS MESSAGE, CABLE INFORMATION ABOUT ARRIVAL HERE ART MATERIALS ETC. BEST REGARDS, ALBERT MEISEL, NATIONAL ARCHIVES.
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5. IF EMBASSY PREFERS NOT TO DELIVER MESSAGE IN PARAGRAPH 4, ARCHIVES SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THEY MAY SEND APPROPRIATE MESSAGE TO FILM POLSKI THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. INGERSOLL

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